

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1 - 10 (Canceled)

11. (New) A dishwasher, comprising:

a container for retaining therein items to be subjected to a dishwashing operation;
and

a controller for at least one of controlling an operating function effecting a switching on of the dishwasher, controlling an operating function effecting a switching off of the dishwasher, and selecting operational functions of the dishwasher, the controller including at least one touch-sensitive surface with switching functions allocated to at least one operating function, wherein the switching function of the touch-sensitive surface is actuatable by relatively light touching contact and the relevant operating function is thereby respectively switched off, switched on, or selected.

12. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the at least one touch-sensitive surface of the controller reacts to a change in an electromagnetic field by a selected one of capacitively reacting by means of a capacitor, reacting by means of an infrared light curtain, reacting by means of a piezo-element, and reacting in another manner, whereby the relevant operating function is then switched on or off or selected.

13. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the controller includes a number of touch-sensitive surfaces with switching functions, each being allocated at least one operating function.

14. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the touch-sensitive surface of the controller has a flat surface that is disposed substantially in the same plane as the surface in which the controller is located on the dishwasher in a selected one of flush disposition of an end of the flat surface with the surface in which the controller is located on the dishwasher and a non-flush disposition of an end of the flat surface with the surface in which the controller is located on the dishwasher.
15. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the viewing surface of the controller is made at least partly of a transparent, preferably matt-finished material.
16. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the touch-sensitive surface of the controller is covered at least partly by a transparent film preferably of plastic.
17. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the touch-sensitive surface of the controller is covered at least in part by a flexible metal film that preferably has lettering to identify the operating function of the touch-sensitive surface located thereunder.
18. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the touch-sensitive surface of the controller is controllably illuminated by one or more lamps preferably in steps.
19. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the touch-sensitive surface of the controller is only illuminated by one or more lamps when the operating function allocated to the touch-sensitive surface is selected or switched on.

20. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the touch-sensitive surface of the controller is back-illuminated by a number of lamps preferably a number of light-emitting diodes of different light color.